

# MLA BULLETIN

FALL 1953 Vol. 18 No. 1

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P.O. Box 1027, Halifax, N. S., Canada

Editor: D. A. Redmond, Librarian  
 Nova Scotia Technical College  
 Halifax, N. S.

## COVER...

Top: Reading room at Mount St. Vincent College Library, Rockingham, N. S.

Below: Kiwanis float in Lunenburg County Exhibition advocates South Shore Regional Library proposal. Behind it came the Annapolis Valley bookmobile.

## STILL THE PRIVILEGED PROFESSION, WITH LOTS OF GROUND STILL TO EXPLORE

Revision of the Directory of Libraries in Halifax is underway. Publication is expected for the CLA conference next June. A map of Halifax libraries will be included (possibly at extra cost). The proliferation of new libraries in the area, a feature of the last five years, has slowed down. Major features shown in the revision will be healthy growth of new libraries and old, and increasing professional capability, new blood, and appearance of more men in the field.

An often neglected aspect of recruitment into librarianship is the possibility of new jobs in new libraries. Some existing libraries without professional staff, some industrial firms or institutions without formal libraries, some areas of public or private book-hunger, could use new librarians. Isn't it part of the librarian's duty to her (his) profession, whether or not she personally wants a new job, to scout these opportunities? Perhaps to demonstrate to authorities involved, or to the public, the advantages of trained library operation, and to point up that area's need? Always, the administration or public authority must be convinced of the value of trained librarianship before they will consider looking for someone to fill a formal position. Few librarians hunting for a job are so situated that they can do that convincing of a prospective employer. Perhaps no librarian in the immediate area is trained or interested in the specialty of the prospective job opportunity, but that doesn't excuse her (him) from demonstrating, through her effectiveness in her own job, and by propaganda, what a trained librarian could do in the new situation.

Would the Medical Associations disparage the situation in a frontier area, without making the need there known to medical men with pioneering spirit? They'd have the good of the public in mind. Our situation is comparable. The directors of provincial regional library systems have this as one of their primary functions but in the academic and special library fields, each librarian must help. One may estimate that four or five more trained librarians, some subject specialists, some public or college specialists, could make themselves jobs in the Halifax area, and without exhausting the possibilities. This in addition to normal annual turnover of about five persons.

Random Notes: CLA conference plans proceed. Local committees have been appointed, accomodation has been arranged, the program is developing. ... The Provincial Library's Regional Union Catalog is also developing, and by next spring should be completely filed. Additional contributors would make the Catalog more valuable, if card cabinets could be obtained. ... What has happened to the local area correspondents for the BULLETIN? ... HLA's November meeting heard a forum on N. S. govt. docs.; the BULLETIN will try to report later on this, an important and (by too many librarians, public and college) often neglected field. ...

College librarians will find useful ammunition in B. K. Sandwell's speech at a special McGill University convocation making the opening of a new wing of the Redpath Library. Write to the Librarian for a copy.

# CURRENT LITERATURE: POETRY

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by A. ROBERT ROGERS

**T**HE ancients regarded poets as inspired madmen. Plato would have banished them from his Republic, believing that they were a menace to the peace and tranquillity of the state.

The modern world enacts no such severe decrees against the poets. But it does something even more effective. It ignores them. In library school, my instructor in book selection once remarked that if the amount of poetry in a library were chosen simply on the basis of demand, the number of volumes in most cases would be drastically reduced.

Why? This situation is partly the fault of modern poets and partly the fault of modern readers. Let us dispose of the latter first. We have not, as readers, the leisure of an earlier age in which a favorite volume of verse might be read and reread, with new pleasure and new meaning each time. We abhor serious intellectual and emotional effort. The Reader's Digest is more our style. Then, too, we are eager to be informed about a multitude of events, but less eager to dwell upon fundamental issues.

Modern poets have not always helped matters. In their quest for freshness of experience, they have sometimes mistaken novelty and purely personal fantasy for depth of insight. Sometimes they have appeared to be contemptuous of the average reader and to be writing only for the small circle of the initiated. Poetry demands hard intellectual effort, but a book of verse that can only be deciphered with the aid of a mass of footnotes or a detailed catalogue of the personal idiosyncrasies of the author has failed in its purpose.

The trend toward obscurity was especially evident during the 1920's and 1930's. During the last decade, it has, mercifully, begun to be abandoned, and there is some hope that during the next decade we, as average readers, may once again begin to enjoy poetry.

Another trend of the 'thirties that is now almost extinct is the passionate concern for upsetting the economic and political status quo. In England, the group of left-wing radical poets formed under the leadership of W. H. Auden began to lose cohesiveness with the outbreak of the War. In Canada, the poetry of left-wing socialism flourished for another half decade. But in both countries it has practically disappeared since the War. In England, the poets of socialism saw the realisation of many of their dreams of justice in the social security measures passed during and after the War. They could hardly be rebels against the new order which they had helped to create. In Canada, the continuance of a high level of prosperity after the War, and the defeat of fascism (which was seen as the arch-enemy of socialism and therefore especially obnoxious to Canadian wartime poets) have taken the wind out of many poetic sails.

The result has been a loss of any sense of direction on the part of many leading poets. Perhaps this is not a bad thing. Concern with the hard, objective world of trains and factories, of strikes and breadlines, may have prevented the development of full individuality.

Some poets have turned to religion. T. S. Eliot inaugurated this trend over twenty years ago by becoming an Anglo-Catholic. He has written a number of religious poems since that time and has published verse dramas, such as Murder in the

Cathedral, Family Reunion, and The Cocktail Party, which deal with religious questions. W. H. Auden turned from socialism to psychoanalysis and then to Christianity. For the Time Being is a meditation concerning the significance of Christmas in the modern world. Age of Anxiety deals, from a religious point of view, with the frustrations and tensions that afflict most of us in this difficult and troubled period. If you want a theological tag for W. H. Auden, neo-orthodoxy will perhaps serve.

In the work of other poets there has been a resurgence of romanticism and personalism. Love and death have again become permissible themes. Some poets, like Dylan Thomas, have given us extensive exploration of the self and have increased our insight into the nature of personality. To be quite frank, I welcome this resurgence of personalism. In the entire English-speaking world, it seems to me, there is a danger that man is becoming depersonalized, that human beings are dwarfed by the vast enterprises they have created—the welfare state, huge factories, complex machines, atomic energy, jet propulsion, etc. Most of these things, in themselves, are good. But, lacking a proper sense of perspective, we are in grave danger of using them to bring about our destruction. This diagnosis is not new. But perhaps we have not recognized as fully as we should that many recent poets are making real efforts to remedy the situation. I am not going to suggest that all our problems would be solved if we sat around reading poetry. But I think the poets can supply something that we need. Dylan Thomas, in the introduction to his Collected Poems 1934-1952, has written: "These poems, with all their crudities, doubts and confusions, are written for the love of man and in praise of God, and I'd be a damn' fool if they weren't."

I shall move very rapidly from general considerations to some discussion of recent Canadian poetry.

E. J. Pratt, long recognized as Canada's foremost poet, brought out another volume of poetry in 1952. Toward the Last Spike deals with the building of the C.P.R. and especially with the hopes and dreams of Sir John A. MacDonald.

Earle Birney, in Trial of a City, has imagined that Vancouver is on trial for its continued existence. The evidence pro and con is wittily and vividly set forth. In the back of the book, Mr. Birney has grouped a number of shorter poems under the title "North Star West". This is also the title of the longest poem of the section.

Nineteen-fifty-two saw the launching of a new poetry group in Toronto. Centered around Raymond Souster, this group brings out a little, mimeographed magazine called Contact. More recently, the group has published a number of books. These are put out by the Contact Press in soft covers. They are cheaply but attractively produced. The poetry is often wild, rebellious and crude, but it has vitality and power.

Nineteen-fifty-three has seen the death of one periodical and the birth of another. Contemporary Verse, which for more than a decade was edited with distinction by Alan Cawley, ceased publication during the winter. Mr. Cawley's discriminating taste exercised a good influence in the development of Canadian poetry, and Contemporary Verse will be greatly missed. At the moment, no other periodical in Canada reaches the high poetic standard which it set.

The new arrival, QIV/a, is a lusty and decidedly naughty infant, born in Montreal. Aileen Collins is the editor and Louis Dudek is one of the group who put it out.

# CURRENT LITERATURE: THE NOVEL

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by DIANA LOCKHART

MR. Rogers has suggested that I take as my topic the current trends as they concern the novel. Now it will be perfectly obvious to everyone that the only things an amateur can bring forth on such a nebulous subject are a mass of prejudices, and this I shall proceed to do with great finality. I only hope that someone will attack me for a fool so that I may, temporarily at least, re-arrange my prejudices and thereby wallow in the pleasant feeling that I am thinking.

There is a lot of loose talk heard nowadays about the fact that the novel is not what it used to be. Now we can discount the sentimentalists, who repeat this incessantly. Even if they hanker for more Gene Stratton Porter and L. M. Montgomery one can usually satisfy them with a Larrimore, Loring, Seifert or Turnbull and if they are inclined towards the marathon—Francis Parkinson Keys or should I say Keyes. We shouldn't worry about these people because they will go on reading and complaining until poor print and paper ends their literary sojourn.

Another group with whom we need hardly feel sympathy is the publishers. They too feel that the novel is not what it used to be, economically speaking of course. Are they and their cronies, the book clubs, killing the goose of golden egg fame? I think they are, although I for one won't shed a tear over their plight. Too long they have been pulling the wool over the eyes of the so-called book lovers. It is all very well to receive half a ton of books a year from the book clubs as they are excellent for interior decoration and give one a reputation for learning, but it is a different story when one comes to read them. It is also a different story when one has to pay anywhere from \$4.50 to \$10 for three or four pounds of artificiality which concerns some dreary mortal who can't make up his mind. The very popular historical romance has become largely an improbable romance of gymnastic proportions generously spiced with historical inaccuracies. Mr. Gilbert Highet has written a lovely review of that usurper of your reserve lists, The Silver Chalice, and the Saturday Review lately polished off The Galileans by Frank Slaughter and Desirée by Selinko and Rosamond Marshall's The General's Wench, so you can see I'm not making this up entirely. I honestly believe that the book club and best seller enthusiasts will be part of a race apart in the future. Not only will their minds be bruised but they will have developed a concave shape resulting from balancing weighty tomes on their stomachs while reading in bed at night.

However, this is not very constructive criticism. I really feel that people are becoming very tired of being told by Henry Seidel Canby and the advertising agencies that a book which is sloppily written, unbalanced, and with a hackneyed plot is going to change the shape of literature. They are beginning to refuse to buy them, and in their search for something that rings true they are turning to non-fiction.

Now we all know it is nonsense to say the novel isn't what it used to be. If that seems like a contradiction let me explain. Many, many, excellent novels are being written and published today but generally they are not backed by huge publishing firms, advertising agencies, TV programs, nor do they normally find their way into the hallowed pages of the Book of the Month Club News. I'll admit that some of the books I will mention have been given a sidelong glance by the latter, but usually the only attractive thing about these reviews is the price at the bottom. The books rarely cost more than \$3. As a case in point I am thinking of The Financial Expert by Narayan. This excellent little book was published in England by Methuen where it received wide acclaim but in order for the Americans to see it at all it had to be published by Michigan State, a comparatively small university. It

did receive notice in the Book of the Month Club News, but the review made the novel sound like an Indian version of Ma Perkins. Price three dollars. Apparently the publishers still feel that the good novel has limited appeal.

Before I speak about the fiction that I consider good and therefore what I consider to be the trend in various countries I shall be honest and point out that I am greatly prejudiced against what is being written across the border. Mind you, I have tried and out of the whole her I have come up with four. Of these, Mary McCarthy appeals to me the most and I think she is a very important writer. Her Groves of Academe is a balanced, thoughtful book. She has the scholarship, the ability and an intuitive feeling for words, all of which go to make up that hackneyed term "good writing". In addition her theme is contemporary and full of interest. The central character is a despicable man, egocentric, bad tempered and full of self-righteousness. You not only see this but you know why he is, without the dubious blessing of longwinded explanations.

I think in Hemingway's last book he achieved the color, atmosphere and feeling of the old classical tragedy. The story unfolds directly before you—you think little about it at the time as it seems to effortless but it seems to grow on you, as they say, until you realize that in a few pages Hemingway said all there was to say about the old man and said it well. Carson McCullers seems also to be a shining light on an otherwise dismal scene and I do think that Truman Capote wrote an entirely satisfying book in The Glass Sparrow.

In Canada we seem to be getting away finally and at last from the typical Canadian novel. By this I mean we are thinking more of the great novel than that great Canadian novel. Although there are several authors who are typical of this change I feel that the most outstanding contemporary ones are Ethel Wilson and Ernest Buckler. "Topas" the Innocent Traveler could be her amusing, inconsequential self in Bombay or Atlantic City. Although I must say that Mr. Buckler's book was disliked both on the mountain and in the valley this reaction seems to be purely regional. As far as I can make out it has been well received everywhere else and well it should be as it is an honest effort, well balanced and lacking in the sentimentality to which books of this nature usually fall prey. Although slightly verbose at times Mr. Buckler obviously loves words and knows how to use them. Robertson Davies' little theater group in Tempest Tost is any group anywhere. Since he is a playwright, Mr. Davies knows how to handle his theme with economy. These three Canadian writers approach their work with honesty, ability, and their emotions firmly in hand. There is certainly no feeling of slapdash writing nor is there any bending over backwards for effect.

This is beginning to sound more and more like a travelogue but as we wave goodbye to historic Halifax let us see what literary adventures await us in Europe.

In spite of the fact that there is a spate of non-fiction rehashing the late war the war novel seems to have been left behind. As might be expected on the continent at least the political novel is retaining its foothold in the tradition of Malraux, Silone and Keesler. Carlo Vei's The Watch is concerned with postwar unrest in Italy and although it is episodic in framework and therefore somewhat disjointed I don't believe the most scholarly Ph.D. theses could compare with it for direct information. The same can be said about The Lightning That Struck Me by Roderick Milton about contemporary Czechoslovakia.

In France I shall mention two very different writers who have impressed me—François Mauriac and Colette. The former assumes a highly didactic tone and he obviously loathes women but his stories are fascinating and written with such

great sincerity and clarity that one can overlook his prejudices—in fact they are rather interesting in themselves. Colette of course is in a world of her own and what a world! Few of us will ever know anyone like Cheri or like Lea nor are poverty-stricken librarians ever likely to inhabit a world where no one works at anything as hard as they do at personal relations. It is a very rarefied atmosphere indeed that Colette works in, but as Gide has said of her, "not one weakness, not one redundancy, nothing commonplace" and that I guess is the last word.

We are all very much aware that the English novel is not on its way out by any means. When we read The Death of the Hearth by Elizabeth Bowen, Palladian by Elizabeth Taylor, Loving by Henry Green, The Horse's Mouth by Joyce Cary, and the Prevalence of Witches by Aubrey Menen we can realize that the tradition of craftsmanship is by no means fading. I hesitate to mention Angus Wilson and Hemlock and After because I am assured by even the London Times that it is not public library material but the man can certainly write.

Now I hope this hasty mass of prejudices and catalog of authors and titles will convince you if you needed convincing that the general trend of the novel is not downhill. On the contrary, fiction writing is to my mind in a very healthy condition indeed and who knows, someday the publishers may drop the breast sellers and costume novels in favor of those who can write.

#### CURRENT LITERATURE: POETRY (Continued from Page 4)

Canadian Poetry, edited by Arthur S. Bourinot, is the official poetry magazine of the Canadian Authors Association. Attractively printed, it includes some excellent poetry and some that is mediocre.

The only other Canadian magazine devoted solely or chiefly to poetry is The Fiddlehead, which has been published since 1945 by the Bliss Carman Society of Fredericton, N. B. Originally an outlet for local poets, its scope has been broadened this year to include writers from any part of the English-speaking world. In May 1953 it appeared in a new format, entirely printed for the first time. Dr. A. G. Bailey, Dean of Arts at U.N.B. and author of Border River (Indian File Series, no.5, McClelland & Stewart, 1952) is chairman of the editorial committee and Dr. Fred Cogswell of the Department of English is editor.

Mr. Rogers' and Miss Lockhart's articles were originally presented as part of a Forum on Trends in Current Literature at the 14th Conference of the Maritime Library Association, Sydney, N.S., June 19, 1953.

#### INTRODUCING THE COLLEGE LIBRARY: UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK (Contd. from p.12)

year and so miss the library program which is designed for first-year students. It is hoped to solve the first problem by having a member of the library staff go over with each class the contents of the sheet "How to look for information" before the hour of special instruction in the library is given. Students will be enabled to grasp more readily the significance of what is being said when they are shown basic library tools. The second problem is more difficult. There is no common course which second-year students take. Yet, as the number of high schools offering Grade XIII increases, a larger percentage of our students will come to us at the beginning of the second year. Mass distribution of information sheets to the upper classmen may provide part of the answer.

Summing up, one would say that the program has shown encouraging results to date and that efforts are being made to improve it in the light of experience.

# *Introducing the College Library*

MARITIME UNIVERSITIES USE TOURS, LEAFLETS, ASSIGNMENTS

...BUT RELY ON PERSONAL CONTACT WITH NEW STUDENTS

At the beginning of the college year, what is your library doing to orient new students? Here are the replies sent to the *MLA BULLETIN* by college and university librarians in the Atlantic Provinces.

## DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

by Douglas Lochhead

At Dalhousie all new students in the Arts and Science faculties receive a formal introduction to the library in the form of library tours (arranged during class hours) and prepared literature. This year, with the cooperation of the Department of English, groups of about twenty freshmen heard members of the professional library staff outline the history of the library, learned how to scan a book, and inspected rare books of the collection. Routines of borrowing reserve, open-shelf and closed-stack books were explained in great detail. In addition, new students were shown the catalog department, the Book Club (current fiction and nonfiction), the microcard reader and microfilm reader, and the extent of the six floors of stack space.

Rather than attempt to make junior-grade librarians of the freshmen through formal lectures, question assignments, etc., it was felt that a general introduction to the library such as that outlined above was the more effective way to introduce the library. The tours were supplemented by a brief printed guide to the library with the accent on the old maxim, "When in doubt ask a librarian." Honour students in third and fourth years, and graduate students, will be given formal lectures in November by the librarian on the bibliographical aids of their subjects.

Two pieces of library literature were distributed to every new student—a copy of *This is Your Library*, a brief six-page guide to the routines of library borrowing; and a one-page handout introducing the Morse Collection of books, maps and manuscripts.

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

by Sister Regina Claire

At this time of year we usually take all the new students through the library and give a short lecture. We take them in groups, so that the lecture will be more easily reached and understood by all. Of course, special emphasis is placed on the individual contacts made all during the semester. The following will give you an idea of what we include in the initial lecture:

1. A tour through the library, returning to the Circulation Desk for lecture.
2. Each student was given a mimeographed sheet called "Introduction to the Library." Two other pamphlets were also distributed to each: "Cataloging and indexing services" and "How to use the Reader's Guide" [H. W. Wilson].
3. The card index is then explained. In other words, the students are shown how to borrow a book. Many of them do not know the initial steps in this process. We have application slips near the card index cabinet and the students are shown how to copy the desired information from the catalog card.
4. Special emphasis is made when explaining the necessity of signing at the circulation desk for books they wish to borrow. At this point mention is made about what type of book may not be borrowed, e.g. reference books, books reserved for class reading, etc.

5. Periodical borrowing is also explained. We only allow the faculty to borrow any of these from the library, so students are advised of this at once.
6. The reserve book section. We have slips to be filled out when any of these books are being used, and the students are given a talk explaining the necessity of this section and the rules concerning it.
7. We have the library rules posted in prominent places in the library and these gone over quickly, but at the same time the students get an idea of what is required of them in the use of the library.
8. A short pep talk is then given on the value of making the best possible use of the library. Students are urged to ask the librarian or assistants for any information they need, rather than waste time hunting for a book or how to use the indexes, etc. This gives a real opportunity to show people how to be at home in a library.

We consider the above sufficient for introducing students to the library, because as I said above we have to give individual attention all during the year.

Book jackets are put up here and there, as well as posters which we receive from publishers, when the latter explain the use of an encyclopedia, or other reference books, for example. We also keep new books on display near the circulation desk, thus providing the recreational type of books as well as the "must" reading.

**MOUNT ST. VINCENT COLLEGE**

by Sister Francis de Sales

The college year has started off splendidly, with an increased student enrolment of twenty-five percent; and strange to say, the classes show that studious bent usually associated with examination time. All the Canadian provinces, with the exception of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario, are represented among the students, as are also the more distant places such as New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Mexico, Trinidad, Colombia, and Beirut. Such a variety of background makes the need for library orientation greater than ever, so a formal program for library instruction has been planned. This is comprised of such topics as the classification scheme, the use of the card catalog, procedures in borrowing and returning books, and the use of reference tools, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, periodical indexes, and general indexes. After time has been allowed for assimilation (and practice), further instruction will be provided in the proper use of the library resources for the writing of term papers, in the approved methods in compiling bibliographies, and elementary methods of research.

Informal reference service is always geared toward self-help, with the librarian on desk duty suggesting, guiding, instructing, but avoiding direct finding if the student is at all capable. Bulletin board displays direct the students' attention to pertinent topics, new books, etc., and special exhibits are set up at various times to correlate classes, activities, and interests with library resources. Circulation figures, thus far, are well above those of last year.

**ACADIA UNIVERSITY**

by H. W. Ganong

The first step in introducing the students to our library consists of a tour of the library, at which time first year students are conducted through in small groups. Various staff members explain some one phase of library routine which will help students in the use of the library. These include the use of the catalogue and the Readers' Guide and other indexes, our method of circulating books and periodicals, etc. To all students we distribute a mimeographed sheet giving the library rules.

As far as reference work is concerned, we have a special room set aside for reference books. This room is available to students at all times, and we are constantly assisting them in the use of various works as need arises.

The total registration is up ten percent, from 520 last year to 572 this year, and the registration of new students is up 22 percent, from 214 last year to 262 this year. With regard to circulation of books, etc., it is too early to establish a definite trend—various factors probably entering into this from year to year—but so far this year it seems promising. From the beginning of the term to Oct. 7 it is up 57 percent over the same period last year.

#### MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

by Sadie L. Organ

During the three days of registration each new student was taken, by a member of the library staff, on a tour of the library premises. At registration itself, every student, whether new or old, was provided with a mimeographed statement about the library and all were required to sign the Library Register.

During the first week of regular classes all First Year students were addressed in groups in the library by the Librarian, and in my talk I went over such matters as the routine for lending out books, returning books, finding books on the shelves, etc. As a follow-up, all students were required to draw a plan of the Main Reading Room indicating on it the positions of certain classes of books or other library material.

During the academic year students are kept informed of library affairs by means of a mimeographed bulletin (now in its sixth year) which lists all recent additions to the library and gives advice on how to make the best use of the library's resources.

#### KING'S COLLEGE

by Ian MacLennan

Firstly, at the beginning of the college year all freshmen students registered at King's are taken over the library, and introduced to the staff. They are shown how to make the best use of it; the procedure that they must follow for withdrawing books is then carefully explained to them.

This year, as usual, Dr. Burns Martin told them the history of the library, pointing out that, for its size, it possessed a remarkably fine collection of incunabula. We have a permanent display case of early colonial china, and also one in which we show manuscripts, autograph poems, art prints, legal documents, charters, etc. When we receive leaflets and booklets, we put them in the magazine racks, keeping them until we feel that they have served their purpose.

#### DALHOUSIE MEDICAL-DENTAL LIBRARY

by Charlotte Allan

First-year Medical students are required to attend one period of library instruction during the fall term. The class is divided into four groups, and each group is assigned a time for visiting the library. The librarian meets the students at the charging desk and explains the procedure for borrowing books, and bound and unbound journals, and loan regulations.

The group then moves to the card catalog. Attention is drawn to the fact that this is a subject and author catalog, and not the dictionary type which they have been using during pre-medical courses. The librarian then displays samples of subject entries, see and see-also references, author, joint author, editor and translator cards, and stresses the fact that few titles are used. She explains

the call number and gives a short summary of the L.C. classification, Q and R schedules. The students then tour the reading room to become familiar with the location of the books.

The greater part of the lecture is devoted to a discussion of dictionaries, directories, looseleaf reference systems, and periodical indexes. Students are given typed notes on these topics. The notes follow the outline suggested in the Library Syllabus of the University of Tennessee. If time permits, questions based on the use of the card catalog, reference books, and indexes are distributed and answered in class. The course is based on lectures given at the School of Medicine Library, Louisiana State University, and the School of Medicine Library, University of Tennessee.

Classes vary in aptitude, Miss Allan reported further. This year's group knew about the card catalog, and how to borrow books; but knew little about the bookstacks or periodicals. Some students who are "up in it" will guide others rather than coming to the desk for assistance.

#### NOVA SCOTIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

by D. A. Redmond

Junior-year students at Tech come from the associated colleges in the Maritimes for their fourth and fifth years of Engineering. They have all had one, and two-thirds of them two, years of college English, and have used their former college libraries. But since the Tech library is specialized, and forms of material differ from the material used at freshman level, all students take a course in using the library as a "tool" just as mathematics is an engineering tool.

The Technical Literature course (two hours a week, first term) begins by showing the importance of the literature. Use of the card catalog, especially the subject entries, is explained; then the specialized periodical indexes, and "self-cataloging" material. Assignments are given on using the card catalog and the technical periodical indexes. Students then progress to writing abstracts of current technical periodical articles, and doing extensive literature searches in preparation for their term reports. All of the work is closely geared to their other technical courses, in order to "motivate" it.

Response has been increasingly good. Though library circulation has not significantly increased—it averages about 1.5 books per student-month—students who have taken the course continue to use the library, and reading-room use (not measurable, open stacks) has much increased. Students are increasingly using the library for collateral reading on both social-science and engineering courses, though instructors are setting out fewer "required" or "reserve-book" readings. Regular two-week loans have almost entirely replaced short-loan reserve books.

A guide booklet, "What's In The Library?", and abundant near-print notes are distributed in the course. Posters aid in use of the catalog, and in making loans.

#### PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE

by Mary Donahoe

We find that students who learn to use the library and are interested students make use of the library. They like to be on their own except when they can not find the required information. Apparently they prefer to look over the books before deciding to read them and seem a little suspicious about large books. The new students are introduced to the library during a lecture period there on the arrangement of the books, the use of reference material, and the catalog. Circulation bears a direct proportion to the number of books on the required lists, and to the essays assigned.

## SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

by Rev. W. A. Stewart, S. J.

No formal classroom lectures have been given this term on library procedure. Instead we have tried introducing new students to the library on the small group level under the direction of one of the library staff. Students assigned various papers are shown how to gather related material through use of the catalog and standard reference works such as the encyclopedias and periodical indexes. The staff is currently preparing a booklet, to appear soon in a temporary format, which will serve as a general library guide.

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

by A. Robert Rogers

In September, 1952, the Bonar Law-Bennett Library began a special effort to acquaint new students with the use of basic library materials. In view of the fact that the program is being repeated in its essential features this year, and because it is still too early to gauge its exact results for 1953-54, I shall describe the things that were done last year and some of the effects in terms of library use.

The Assistant Librarian met the new students personally on registration day in 1952 and handed them copies of the Library Guide. Later, at the beginning of Freshman Week, all the new students came to the library as part of their tour of the campus. Led by sophomore team captains or by members of the library staff, groups of ten to fifteen students were given a fairly clear picture of the physical layout of the building. Every effort was made to present the library as a friendly, attractive place.

Later in the week, the English Department took part in the program. Professors handed out mimeographed sheets entitled "How to look for information" to classes of new students and then brought them to the library for a full hour of instruction as part of their regular class work. During this visit, classes were divided into groups of ten or fifteen and were shown the catalog, the encyclopedias, the dictionaries, the indexes to periodicals, etc. Following the instruction period, they were given library exercises to do. The exercises were marked by the Assistant Librarian and were counted by the professors as part of the regular classroom work. Most of the students seemed to grasp the points covered very readily, and only two out of 140 failed on the test.

Circulation during the period from October to April was twenty percent higher than during the previous year. The Reference Librarian reported many more queries and many more opportunities to help students find what they needed. The increase in circulation was very remarkable in view of the fact that the enrollment last year was smaller than for 1951-52. The figures exceeded even the record set in 1949 when the veterans were with us.

The plan has been repeated this year with minor modifications. It is still too early to gauge its success with any high degree of accuracy, but the general trend is toward much less spectacular results this year. The change in the first year history course from a broad survey of western civilization (with no text but only special readings) to a course in European history from 1870 to the present (which follows a set text) will undoubtedly have its repercussions. The fact that the Chemistry Department now has a departmental library will affect the circulation of books and periodicals from the main library. The possibility of shifting emphases in other academic departments cannot be overlooked.

Looking toward the future, one would be inclined to say that two problems must be solved: coordination of the handling of information given to students about the library, and the fact that many students now come to us in their second

(Continued on page 7)

# Fredericton Library Underway

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by A. R. ROGERS

Around the first of October, Fredericton members of the New Brunswick Library Association decided that action on the matter of a public library (promised last February) was a bit slow in coming. Also it appeared that, in a very tax-conscious city, some opposition to the library had grown up during the summer and several representations had been made to City Council against a public library. Certain that such representations did not give the view of the majority of people here, members circulated a petition calling for the establishment of a public library in the John Thurstone Clark Memorial Building, left to the City by the late W. G. Clark for several purposes, among them a "reading room" for the "young men" of the City. Sixteen copies of the petition went to City Council from various individuals and groups in Fredericton. At the same time, Mrs. H. J. Flemming sent a supporting letter to the Mayor.

On Oct. 13 the City Council decided to go ahead with plans for a public library. The infant library will share the building with several other organisations, including the York-Sunbury Historical Society, the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Well-Baby Clinic and the Fredericton Art Club. It is a large house and will serve for the next two or three years fairly adequately. By then, it is hoped, certain other buildings now in use for other things may be made available to the City. Meanwhile, the library will have three or four reasonably good-sized rooms on the main floor of a house a block off the main street of the City. The City has voted \$10,000 for the first year for staff and books and another \$5000 to take care of heat, light, janitor service and other maintenance for the building as a whole.

On Oct. 27 the City announced the appointment of a nine-member library board. The Mayor will be an ex-officio additional member. Other members are: Alden R. Clark, of J. Clark & Son Ltd. (a wellknown and respected business man and a member of the John Thurstone Clark Memorial Committee); Mrs. Marjorie J. Thompson, Librarian of the Bonar Law-Bennett Library; Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, wife of the Premier; Mr. E. T. Moran, local plumber and labor spokesman; Alderman Harry T. Farris, branch manager for the Canada Life Insurance Co.; Mr. Glenn MacKensie, teacher in the high school; Mrs. William Argue, wife of the Dean of Science at U.N.B., president of the University Women's Club and past president of the Fredericton Council of Women; Mrs. Benjamin Medjuck, wife of a prominent merchant and an active worker in the Home and School Association and other groups; Mrs. Nelson Adams, president of the Fredericton Council of Women and past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club. The Board is thus representative of various occupational and social groups in the City. It has yet to meet and elect a chairman. The first task will be to advertise for a librarian and then to choose from the applications for the post.

It is expected that there will be one librarian and one typist for the first year and that their labors will be supplemented by voluntary help. After that, much will depend on the energy and initiative of the new librarian.

## REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR SOUTH SHORE OF NOVA SCOTIA? (SEE COVER)

A float promoting regional library service for the south shore of Nova Scotia was watched with interest by hundreds of Lunenburg County citizens at their annual exhibition Sept. 29. Built by the Bridgewater Kiwanis club, it got a special prize.

The float was followed in the parade by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library bookmobile which remained on exhibition during the afternoon while the library staff answered questions about the service. Further action was taken at a meeting held in Bridgewater Oct. 22, when details of the proposed library were discussed and plans made for further action.

## *Pictures, Documents, Tapes at Dal.*

Activities commencing the academic year at Dalhousie University's Macdonald Memorial Library have included an extended picture loan collection, the beginning of a library of tape recordings, and wider circulation of periodic lists of government documents recently received.

### Picture Loan Collection

During the past few years, the Dalhousie University Library has operated a picture loan collection for the convenience of students, faculty and alumni. For the annual sum of fifty cents for small-size pictures, and one dollar for large size, borrowers have been able to rent framed reproductions of famous paintings. This arrangement has proved quite popular and a plan to expand this service has been formulated.

The idea, of course, is to make available reproductions of famous works of art so that students may decorate their rooms while attending the University. In addition, under the direction of the Art Committee, a subcommittee of the Library Committee, large reproductions suitably framed are being hung throughout the University, so that students may learn to recognize some of the better-known art masterpieces, both at the University and in their rooms.

Over two hundred new prints have been purchased along with a large number of standard-sized frames. Borrowers have a wider selection of pictures to choose from and for the same rental fee may change their pictures anytime. The framed pictures are simply returned to the library, a new print is inserted in the frame and the old one returned to the picture file. A picture frame has been devised which permits the substitution of prints rapidly and without damage to the picture.

### Roy Campbell Tape Recording Acquired

Roy Campbell, South African traveler, soldier of fortune, poet and lecturer, addressed meetings and gave readings at Dalhousie University in October, and the Dalhousie Library has acquired a tape recording of his readings as part of a growing library of tape recordings and discs. The tape recorder, which has been used for some time by the modern languages department as a teaching tool, will be used to record University ceremonies, speakers, and other events. The growing collection of records includes readings of poetry and other material valuable in the teaching of English literature.

### Government Documents Lists Circulated

In April 1953 the Dalhousie University Library was designated a depository library for Canadian Government publications. At the moment there are two other depositories in the Maritimes, at the University of New Brunswick and Acadia University libraries. Through the good offices of Dr. G. A. Frecker, Newfoundland's Deputy Minister of Education, the library will also be on the mailing list of all Newfoundland government departments.

During the academic year, selected government documents will be displayed in the Government Documents Room, including current Canadian and foreign publications of general interest. Selected lists of receipts, similar to the lists of book accessions already being published, are being distributed to a wider list of recipients. The October list (No. 5) gives a selection from 2311 items received, indexed and filed between April 1 and Sept. 30, 1953, under the direction of Mrs. Elvira Apinis.

# Enthusiasm for N.B. Book Week Grows <sup>15</sup>

Libraries in various parts of New Brunswick are active in plans for Young Canada's Book Week, Nov. 15-22, reports Mrs. Hugh John Fleming, 1953 Patroness. Enthusiasm in Fredericton is contagious since the public library has been finalized and plans are well advanced in Moncton.

"Give some child a book" is the slogan of the Fredericton members of the N.B. Library Association. Carrying the slogan a stage farther, the Fredericton group is saying "Buy a book for 25 children". Officials point out that this can be done by buying one book and placing it in the public library, where 25 or more children of the hundreds expected to flock to the public library may have the use and enjoyment of each book given. Miss Margaret Hall of Hall's Book Store has acquired a number of recommended lists for children's and young people's reading, including a special list prepared by Miss Alice Oulton, Librarian of the Department of Education Library, and is stocking a large selection of specially recommended books for the Week. A discount of ten percent will be given on all books purchased for the public library. A display window on Queen Street will indicate the number of book donations during the Week. Miss Hall is chairman of the Fredericton committee, which includes Mrs. Fleming, Miss Moira Thompson, and an I.O.D.E. representative.

Mrs. Fleming will head a radio panel on the subject of libraries, at some time in the Week. Other speakers will be Hon. Claude D. Taylor, Minister of Education, Dr. Marguerite Michaud of Teachers' College, and Dr. Desmond Pacey, author of wellknown children's books.

Moncton has jumped the gun on Young Canada's Book Week by organizing the Pied Piper Book Club in October. Sparked by Hubert Button, chairman of the Public Library Board, the Club was publicized in city schools and by press and radio. An attractive yellow, white and black badge, with the figure of the Pied Piper leading the children of Hamelin, is awarded to each member of the Club who reads six or more books. Book prizes are being given for the best version of the Pied Piper story told by children in grades 4, 5 and 6. A program over CHW keeps members informed of Club progress. Later, full members of the Club will appear on the program.

Miss Elizabeth Condon, Librarian of the Moncton Public Library, reported at the annual meeting of the New Brunswick Library Association on Oct. 15 that circulation of children's books had more than quadrupled since the formation of the Club and was still rising. N.B.L.A. members were of the opinion that other parts of the province could profitably copy the Pied Piper Book Club to increase the reading of wholesome literature and to combat the unsavory material so freely available on the news stands. Mr. Button generously offered to furnish further information and samples of material to any who were interested in trying to start such clubs in their own communities. Information may be obtained by writing to Miss Condon.

Wider observance of Young Canada's Book Week than ever before is expected in New Brunswick. The Department of Education has sent out 2000 booklists and copies of free literature to the schools of the province and to other groups such as the I.O.D.E., the Home and School Associations, and the Women's Institutes.

## NEW LIBRARY IN LIVERPOOL, N. S.

An attractive brick building in Liverpool is nearing completion, and the Liverpool Public Library Committee hopes that it will be ready for use before the end of the year.

## <sup>16</sup> **NBLA Asks Tax Cut on Books**

Resolutions calling for the abolition of the provincial sales tax on books, and urging the appointment of a director of regional libraries in New Brunswick, were adopted by the New Brunswick Library Association at its annual meeting in Saint John on Oct. 15.

Elected 1953-54 president of NBLA was Mrs. Marjorie Thompson; vice-president, Miss Anita Legace, librarian, Grand Falls Community Library; councillors, Hubert Button of CHCW, Moncton, and Mrs. Harold Haley, librarian, St. Croix Community Library. A. Robert Rogers was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

"Reading" was the subject of an address given by Dr. W. H. MacKensie, superintendent of Saint John schools and chairman of the Royal Commission on Education Finance. Speaking at a luncheon meeting, he pointed out that it had been the hope of thinkers from the medieval period to early modern times that the improvement of material conditions would bring about a higher cultural level. He raised the question whether this had in fact been the case. He felt that, so far as technical skill in reading was concerned, great advances had been made, but that the quality of much that was popularly read might be questionable.

Agreeing with librarians that the great need in New Brunswick at the moment is increased library facilities, Dr. MacKensie pointed out that a deeper problem of proper use would arise as soon as these facilities were available.

A telegram from Miss Barbara Gandy, librarian of the Old Manse Library in Newcastle, invited the Association to hold its 1954 meeting in Newcastle. The invitation was appreciated.

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## **New Reading Room at St. Mary's Univ.**

by REV. W. A. STEWART, S. J.

Our major library development of the past year was the completion of the new reading room. Opened for student use at the beginning of the fall term, the new room measures almost 60 by 60 feet and has a seating capacity of 78. Visitors' comments have been gratifying. Still more so has been the response of the students. Circulation figures are almost double what they were at this time last year.

Completion of the reading room and purchase of other needed equipment were made possible by the generous donation of the late Mr. E. H. Horne of Suffield. And in the field of ideas, the Librarian would like to acknowledge his indebtedness to Sister Francis de Sales and Mr. D. A. Redmond for their ready help and advice.

Another much appreciated gift was the bequest to the University of the personal library of the late Archbishop John T. McEllis. Making close to 3000 volumes, the collection includes some rare and valuable editions. Other gifts bring the total of volumes received during the past year to approximately 6000.

The library has purchased a Recordak microfilm reader. Though we have only a few films at present and use of the reader is chiefly by members of the faculty, we hope as time goes on to make increasing use of this space-saving service.

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**BRIGHT, MODERN MOUNT ST. VINCENT COLLEGE LIBRARY HAS HILLTOP VIEW (COVER)**

The view of hills and Bedford Basin can't be seen, but students seem too busy reading to gaze out the window in this picture. Charge desk in background.